

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The office action dated January 21, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 32-42 remain in the application. Claims 32 and 37 are amended.

In the Office Action, claims 32-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,181,390 to Aizawa ("Aizawa").

The rejection of claims 32-42 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aizawa is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 32-36 are allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a clamping part having a snap-fit part with a slot extending substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp such that the lamp is snap-fitted by pressing the lamp into the slot substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp and the clamping part integrally extending at an angle from said body, said clamping part for securing an end of said lamp and the electrode of said lamp." Claims 37-42 are allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a clamping structure that is integral with, and angularly extends from, said clamp, said clamping structure having a slotted opening extending substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp and dimensioned to snap-fit with the electrode such that the lamp is snap-fitted by pressing the lamp into the slotted substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp, wherein the electrode and the lamp are fixed by the clamp and the clamping structure." Aizawa does not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

Aizawa is directed to: "socket terminals for a socket into which a wedge base electric lamp is inserted. The socket terminals have a pair of spring portions positioned upwardly of a pair of contact members so that even if lead wires in the electric lamp are not properly bent, the lead wires may be corrected to their proper positions when the electric lamp is inserted into the socket to insure that the contact members may come into contact with the lead wires." (See Abstract.) In Aizawa the lamp is inserted into the base downward so that the base slides between springs 10a and 10b and contact arms 8a and 8b. Aizawa does not have a slot or slotted opening extending substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp. If the Examiner considers the space between the springs 10a and 10b and the contact members 8a and 8b a slot or slotted opening, which the Applicant does not admit, it still is not substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp, but rather is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the lamp. Further, the lamp of Aizawa is snapped into place by pressing the lamp into the socket a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the lamp, which is contrary to the lamp being snap-fitted by pressing the lamp into the slotted substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp. Therefore, Aizawa fails to disclose these features of the invention disclosed in claims 32-42, so the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 32-42 are allowable over the cited prior art.

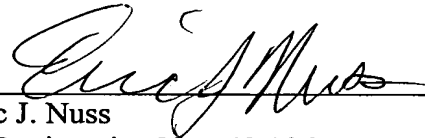
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: April 15, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By


Eric J. Nuss

Registration No.: 40,106

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

1900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 496-7500

Attorney for Applicant



30827

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE